

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council, in Presidential statement, says Angola peace agreement is within reach; urges UNITA to accept proposals on national reconciliation and defers imposition of threatened measures.
- + In statement last night, Security Council calls on States to promote peace in Afghanistan and to halt flow of weapons to warring parties; says civil war threatens stability and security in region.
- + Security Council expresses concern at restrictions on UNPROFOR movements in Croatia; says blockades of UNPAs by demonstrators and taxes and tolls imposed by authorities are inadmissible.
- + Security Council mission to Mozambique completes week of talks on implementation of General Peace Agreement; three members to travel on to Burundi to assess situation there.
- + Secretary-General appoints Major-General Guy Tousignant of Canada to succeed Major-General Romeo Dallaire as Force Commander of UNAMIR on 15 August.
- + United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to hold fourth session at Headquarters from 15 to 26 August.

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The Security Council today strongly urged the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to accept a set of proposals on national reconciliation put forward by the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the three observer States to the Angolan peace process. Saying a just and comprehensive peace agreement was within reach, the Council temporarily deferred the imposition of additional measures against UNITA referred to in resolution 932 (1994).

However, in a statement read out by President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council warned that it was ready to impose further measures

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against UNITA if it did not accept the proposals this month. The Council also said that it would start to compile a list of possible measures, and that it would not tolerate further procrastination in the peace process.

The Council commended the work of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the three observer States, and encouraged them to continue efforts to bring peace to Angola through negotiations within the Peace Accords. It urged the Angolan Government and UNITA to cooperate fully with the Special Representative to allow a successful conclusion of the Lusaka peace talks.

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The Security Council last night called on all States to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of weapons to the warring parties, and to put an end to the destructive civil war there. In a statement by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council urged the international community to help Afghans to rebuild their shattered country.

The Council deplored the continuing fighting in Afghanistan, which threatened the stability and security of other countries in the region. It called on all parties to end the hostilities and to embark on the process of political reconciliation, reconstruction and development of their country.

The Council welcomed the progress report of the Secretary-General's special mission to Afghanistan. It particularly welcomed recommendations concerning the reestablishment of a United Nations political presence in Kabul and the establishment of a working group to assist peace efforts and to prepare an international conference on Afghanistan.

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The Security Council last night expressed concern at difficulties faced by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) because of blockades by demonstrators of United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia. In another statement by President Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council said the blockades and related impediments imposed by Croatian authorities -- such as tolls and taxes for the use of roads and airports -- were inadmissible.

The Council was encouraged by the 4 August agreement between Croatia and UNPROFOR regarding the regulation of traffic to and from the UNPAs, and called on the authorities to faithfully implement it. The Council also reminded Croatia of its obligation to facilitate UNPROFOR's unimpeded access to all 19 crossing points agreed to in the 29 March cease-fire agreement. It urged the Croatian Government to quickly conclude a status of forces agreement with UNPROFOR and to resolve all issues, including the blockades and impediments, in accordance with that agreement. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia and to the right of all displaced persons and refugees to return to their homes.

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The nine-member Security Council mission to Mozambique will leave the country for Nairobi, Kenya, tomorrow, having completed its work, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Part of the mission will return to New York, but three members will travel to Burundi amid growing concern at recent violence and political instability there. The three will meet with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and assess the situation in the country.

While in Mozambique, the mission had meetings with President Joaquim Chissano and Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama to discuss how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Major-General Guy Tousignant of Canada to succeed Major-General Romeo Dallaire as Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), according to a spokesman for the Organization. Major-General Tousignant will assume command of the Mission on 15 August.

The spokesman paid tribute to the outgoing Force Commander, who had served with honour and exceptional distinction during the most critical period in UNAMIR's history. Major-General Dallaire will be leaving Rwanda to take up national duties in Canada.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will hold its fourth session at Headquarters from 15 to 26 August. The Conference is expected to produce an instrument for sustainable exploitation of those resources, based on a revised negotiating text drafted at its third session in March. That text sets out general principles for conserving and managing fish stocks, but does not reflect a consensus.

The Conference is mandated by the General Assembly to identify, assess and solve long-standing problems of high seas fisheries, with particular reference to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory stocks. Fishing populations include straddling stocks, which are found within and beyond exclusive economic zones, and highly migratory fish.

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